



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**CHARLIE BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 40TH FIELD ARTILLERY**  
**6050 NE ROTHWELL**  
**FORT SILL OKLAHOMA 73503-6202**

ATSF-KI-C

04 NOV 2014

**SUBJECT: BASIC COMBAT TRAINING CLASS #06-15**

Dear Parents, Family Members, and Friends:

I am CPT David Rhoads, Commander of Charlie Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 40th Field Artillery; your Soldier's commander for Basic Combat Training. I want you to know that the cadre who are training your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals. They are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare, and training of your Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the most important asset of the Army's future.

During this training period, your Soldier is learning the basic skills that are required on today's modern battlefield. The training has been and will be very strenuous and demanding; however, the tasks learned and performed help your Soldier develop the self-confidence needed to fight and win this nation's wars. Your Soldier's Basic Combat Training Class number is 06-15.

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying a Soldier in training is through your local American Red Cross. The field office in your vicinity will contact the Lawton field office, which will then contact me. To do so by telephone, dial 1-800-RED-CROSS and follow the instructions for contact a military service member. Remember, your Soldier is in Charlie Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 40<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

On 22 January 2015, at 9:00 AM, we invite you to attend a Soldier's Demonstration and Family Day at Destroyer Park on Sheridan Road Fort Sill, Oklahoma, 73503. Afterwards, the Soldiers of Charlie Battery will be released for a few hours to spend time with their Families in the Lawton/Fort Sill Area.

On 23 January 2015, at 10:00 AM, your Soldier is expected to graduate from Basic Combat Training. We invite you to attend your Soldier's graduation ceremony. The graduation ceremony will take place at McMahon Auditorium 801 NW Ferris Ave, Lawton, OK 73507. Eligible Soldiers will be released for a few hours to spend time with their families.

You can keep track of your Soldier's Basic Training Class and the milestones they have achieved on our unit's Facebook page. The Facebook page is:

**<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/C-Battery-1st-Bn-40th-Field-Artillery-Charlie-Rock/305354050052>**



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For those of you arriving early for the graduation, I invite you to visit and tour the Lawton-Fort Sill community. The Lawton-Fort Sill area offers a vast array of attractions. As you may know, Fort Sill is located in southwest Oklahoma and is surrounded by the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. You can visit the Wildlife Refuge Center, and in the Lawton area, the Great Plains Museum. While on post you can tour Geronimo's Guard House and gravesite, the Old Post Quadrangle Museum, the Old Post Corral, the Prairie Crafters Store and Artillery Museum.

Family members and other guests are responsible for all of their own travel arrangements. If you fly into the Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airport, I suggest you rent a car or take a taxi as a means of transportation to your hotel and graduation activities. The airport has a limited supply of rental cars, so make your reservations early. If rooms are available, you can stay in the on-post transient lodging. To stay on post you must make your reservations in advance by calling 1-580-442-5000. Please be prepared to provide the reservation clerk with the name and rank of the Soldier that you will be visiting while on Fort Sill. Our on-post-lodging facilities are located very close to the Field Artillery Training Center. If the on-post lodging has no rooms available, or you just choose to stay off-post, I have also included a list of hotels in the Lawton-Fort Sill area.

On occasion, trainees fail to graduate within the 9-week period. Therefore if your Soldier has not been in contact with you, we ask that you please contact the battery approximately 1-2 weeks prior to graduation. At that point, we will be able to tell you whether or not your Soldier is on track to graduate with the rest of the class. The Soldiers will be very busy the last few days before graduation. I kindly ask that you do not make attempts to see your Soldier before graduation. Your Soldier will not be released or allowed to see friends and family prior to that time.

Military Police guard every entrance to Fort Sill and conduct identification checks and/or vehicle inspections of all individuals traveling on post. This is to ensure the safety of the Soldiers and families who work and live here. Bring this letter, proof of insurance, registration for your vehicle, and a picture ID for all adults traveling to Fort Sill. The gate guards will check these items as justification for your entrance! Fort Sill policy states that no one will operate a vehicle while using a cell phone. You may use hands free devices that only cover one ear, or pull off the road and come to a complete stop before using your phone.

It is permissible to photograph and videotape graduation activities, however this permission does not extend to the rest of Fort Sill. While photography is allowed of ceremonies and family or social events, unrestricted videotaping and photography by the public on the installation is prohibited. However, photography is allowed of historical exhibits at the Fort Sill Museum, including those which are outdoors, but prohibited near family quarters and office buildings. You are welcome to bring a camera to the graduation, but please exercise caution and do not point it in the direction of installation facilities, buildings and military equipment which are not part of the graduation activities.



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Please be aware that your Soldier may have travel arrangements by the Army to go to their next duty station. Please check with your Soldier prior to making your own travel arrangements. If you are buying a plane ticket I recommend that you purchase refundable tickets in case the Soldier doesn't graduate.

Please view the following website for information on Fort Sill and the Basic Training program <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/index.htm> 24 hours a day. For updates and photos of your Soldiers in training, our page on Facebook is up and running—just enter “Charlie Rock 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 40<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery” in the Facebook search bar and, if you see a cartoon-style rock-man Drill Sergeant, you’ve found the right page. Photos and news on how your Soldier’s Class is doing will be added to the site weekly.

**Our mailing address is:**

--addressee's name here--  
C Battery, 1-40<sup>th</sup> FA\_\_#\_Plt  
6050 NE Rothwell St.,  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503.

Please ask your Soldier any of the questions about graduation or his follow up assignment, but should he/she not be able to answer your questions contact myself or my First Sergeant. The Battery telephone number is (580) 442-1251. (NOTE: We cannot accept collect calls). You can also post your questions on our battery Facebook page.

Updates on this Basic Training Class can also be found online at:

<http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-40/1-40c.html>

DAVID S. RHOADS  
CPT, FA  
Commanding